

REPUBLICANS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in 30 years, we have an historic opportunity to do what is right for America. We have an opportunity to pass a budget that does not dip into the Social Security trust fund.

Republicans are committed to protecting Social Security for future generations of Americans. However, the Democratic leadership seems to have other priorities. They seem to believe that spending the Social Security surplus would be a political victory for them. They would rather score political points than secure America's future.

Today I rise to urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to put their partisan agenda aside and join with the Republicans in saving and preserving 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund. Help us pass a budget that would put an end to the 30-year raid on Social Security. Work with us to put partisanship aside and do the right thing for all Americans and their future.

I yield back the balance of my time and 100 percent of the Social Security trust fund.

CALLING FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, this body will soon be voting on the conference report to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. This gives us the opportunity to greatly improve the health of people of color.

As we prepare to enter the 21st century, the poor, African-Americans and other ethnic minorities are essentially no healthier than they were at the opening of this one. There remains a gaping divide between whites and people of color in heart disease, cancer, diabetes, infant mortality and HIV/AIDS.

The Congressional Black Caucus was able to mount an unprecedented initiative to target \$156 million to communities of color across this country to address the state of emergency that exists with respect to HIV/AIDS and access to care. Although we made an impact, we need to do much more to increase access to the resources needed to raise the health status of minorities in this country.

I appeal to this Congress to respond by fully funding the President's requests for health, by increasing the funding for the CBC initiative to \$349 million, health disparities to \$150 million and including the \$35 million for AIDS in Africa.

My colleagues, health care delayed is health care denied. Let us not deny

hundreds of millions of Americans their right to good health.

ANNOUNCING FORMATION OF THE BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA CAUCUS

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, just by looking around at our homes, our offices, our roads and our local infrastructure, we can see that construction has an important impact on our lives. The U.S. construction market totaled \$652 billion in 1998 which was 8.13 percent of our gross domestic product, which is GDP. Construction employed 5,970,000 workers with a payroll of \$160 billion in 1998 which is about 6 percent of the Nation's nonfarm, private sector employment. The construction industry is comprised of nearly 2 million small and large firms. Construction is larger than the automotive and steel industries combined.

Because construction is such an important part of our everyday lives, I have started the Building a Better America Caucus. The purpose of the caucus is to educate Members of the Congress on building-related issues that impact our districts and our constituents, from affordable housing to airport construction.

I urge all my colleagues to support our Nation's builders by joining the Building a Better America Caucus and supporting commonsense legislation to build a better America.

REPUBLICAN CONGRESS WILL STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Federal Government wastes billions of dollars every year through bureaucratic mismanagement. Add waste, fraud and abuse to the equation and we are talking about some pretty big dollars. That is money that could be used in a much more worthwhile way for strengthening the Social Security trust fund.

We have a choice here in Congress. Do we want to continue the old Democrat practice of raiding the Social Security trust fund to pay for big government programs while overlooking waste, fraud and abuse just as they did the last time they had control of this body? The answer is "no."

For too many years, Democrats in Washington raided Social Security while making no effort to hold government agencies accountable for how they spent the taxpayers' money. I am proud to say that the Republican Congress will hold the bureaucracy accountable. We will make them find ways to eliminate waste, fraud and

abuse. And better yet, we will stop the raid on the Social Security trust fund.

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PASS THE LABOR-HHS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, time is fast approaching for this Congress to do its business. There are at least five appropriations bills that we have not yet addressed. We call it deadlock; but in my town of Houston, we cannot afford any more deadlock as it relates to our children. Violence continues. Just this past week we lost a young middle schooler through a violent act in his school, struck down by a screwdriver to his head.

There is a great need for attention to our children, for stopping the violence, for intervention; and we need to pass a Labor-HHS bill that will provide more funding for mental health.

I will be offering before the session ends the Give-a-Kid-a-Chance Omnibus Mental Health Bill, which provides access to mental health services for all of our children, to make sure that our community health clinics provide a holistic approach to the treating of the parent, the child, the support system around that child, the community, in order to understand that ending violence with our children is a community effort, a community affair, and mental health is not bad, it is good.

Pass the Labor-HHS bill and provide more funding for mental health services in America.

DAY 152 IN THE LOCKBOX BILL HOSTAGE SITUATION

(Mr. VITTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday we reached a milestone in the wait for the other body to consider the lockbox bill this House passed on May 26. Sunday was day 150 since the Lockbox bill of the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER) to protect Social Security from the Congressional big spenders passed this House by the overwhelming vote of 416 to 12.

That is right. On Sunday, when President Clinton's supporters were on TV talk shows accusing the Republican Congress of threatening Social Security, it was exactly 150 days since those very Clinton supporters took the Lockbox bill hostage. They refused to allow a vote to stop the raid on Social Security forever. Now it has been 152 days since this body passed the Lockbox bill, and the other body has not acted.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to stopping the raid on Social Security, now and in the years to come. We hope the President will join